

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2023

The Honorable Katherine Tai
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

We write to request an update regarding the private sector industry advisory panel for Southeastern fruit and vegetable producers that you committed to establish last year. This commitment was made on October 23, 2022, in response to the Bipartisan Florida Congressional Delegation's September 8, 2022, petition for relief pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

As you know, Southeastern fruit and vegetable growers face enormous challenges, including unfair trade practices by Mexico that are displacing our growers from the domestic American market. We appreciate your recognition of these challenges and your interest in standing up for Southeastern growers. It is imperative that the panel be established and convened as expeditiously as possible so that Southeastern growers' concerns can be heard directly by the Federal government.

The advisory panel will serve as a crucial forum for Southeastern growers to contribute their unique perspectives towards the development of a comprehensive set of policy recommendations. Establishing the panel, and implementing its recommendations, will be critical to providing economic relief to fruit and vegetable growers and rural economies throughout the Southeastern United States. With the 2023-2024 growing season fast approaching, the panel must be convened as soon as possible.

We look forward to collaborating with you in developing effective and lasting solutions to ensure our growers can continue supplying the American people with some of the best fresh produce in the world, bolstering our nation's food security and competitiveness. We respectfully request a timely response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Jon Ossoff
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress